



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL

GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

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Contact: Jean Kelly

Telephone: 225-219-3966

DEQ to conduct water survey on Lower Tchefuncte River near Covington and Madisonville

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will be installing electronic monitoring equipment in conjunction with a water sampling survey on Lower Tchefuncte River in St. Tammany Parish. The equipment will be installed from Oct. 26 to Oct. 30. The units will be located in Covington and Madisonville.

The survey is being conducted to gather water quality information that will be used to restore and protect the water body. The data gathered from the survey will be used to identify suspected pollutants in the water body that may cause or contribute to low oxygen levels in the water. The DEQ permitting division uses this information to set a Total Maximum Daily Load for water bodies throughout the state.

TMDLs are used as a basis for establishing wastewater discharge limits. There are four sewage treatment facilities in these subsegments that are slated to be sampled during the survey.

Citizens are asked not to tamper with the equipment that will be mounted on rebar, fence posts, white PVC poles or buoys.

For further information about the TMDL program and the watershed sampling survey, please contact David Greenwood with DEQ at (225) 219-3618 or visit the Web site at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/130/Default.aspx>.